A detailed illustration of a soldier in profile, facing right. He is wearing a dark, textured helmet with a chin strap. He is holding a telephone receiver to his mouth with his right hand. The background is a light, textured surface. The text "The What and Where Book" is written in a stylized, cursive font in the upper right corner. The text "of Camp Claiborne, Louisiana" is written in a similar font in the lower left corner.

*The  
What and  
Where Book*

*of  
Camp Claiborne, Louisiana*



THE  
**What and Where Book**  
OF  
**Camp Claiborne, La.**

Written, compiled and edited  
by the  
Camp Public Relations Office

Published by *The Camp Claiborne News*  
for free distribution.

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## Introduction

We'd like to have you think of Camp Claiborne as a city, the third largest city in Louisiana. We have all of the makings including our own laws, police force, traffic lights, laundry, stores, bakery, railroad, gasoline station, water supply system, electric system, local officials, bus



lines, restaurants, newspaper, theatres, churches and clubs. About the only thing you won't find around here is a voting booth. You may still vote, by mail, in the elections back home—but you aren't going to be allowed to have much to say about how things'll be run here. That is going to be the difference. You are going to have a lot

less to say about what you are going to do.

The reason for this is simple. Men have learned a lot about fighting wars in the past few thousand years. Discipline, they discovered, is a requisite of military success.

The purpose of this book is to help newcomers to Claiborne become oriented as rapidly as possible and to facilitate the utilization of the facilities offered here. We don't ask you to like Camp Claiborne; most of us could think of better places to spend our time—if danger didn't threaten our nation. However, you won't be on duty all of the time and there will be many activities to offer relaxation during your off-hours.

## History

The site for Camp Claiborne was selected because it was the best potential training area that could be found. Because this area is so well suited to military purposes the Army has built four other important installations within a fifty mile radius. They are, roughly in order of size, Camp Polk, Camp Livingston, Esler Field and Alexandria Air Base. This camp was named for William Charles Cole Claiborne, an early governor of the Orleans Territory and the first elected governor of Louisiana. He was a member of the United States Senate at 22.

Initially Camp Claiborne was constructed as a tent camp to accommodate some 30,000 officers and men. In 1942 hutments replaced the tents and the Engineer Unit Training Center was activated and established in a western extension of the camp.

One unusual feature of the camp is the variety of units to be found here. At almost any time every branch of the service except the Coast Artillery have representatives on duty here.

This book is designed to help you get the most out of your stay here. Keep it handy. It'll save you a lot of footsteps, and brother, footsteps are what you'll be apt to run shy of!

## Furloughs

The Army is on record as saying it would like to give you at least 30 days of furlough each year but this is war and you take what you can get. Furloughs usually are not granted to men in new units until basic training has



been completed. This has no bearing on emergency furloughs which may be granted no matter what the training status. Emergency furloughs are granted to men who can prove to the satisfaction of their commanding officer and the Red Cross Director that an emergency which requires their presence at home does exist. Usually, as in the case of death or sickness in the family, the emergency is first investigated by the American Red Cross.

The trains and busses offer special low rates to soldiers traveling on furlough orders. The Army pays you for the food you would have eaten if you had stayed in camp, and the military curfew does not apply to soldiers on furlough who are minding their own business. Altogether, furloughs are mighty nice things to have happen to you.

## **Furlough Ration Money**

Furlough ration money is money paid to you for Army food you didn't eat while you were away on furlough.

## **Visitors' Passes**

Both permanent and temporary passes are available to acceptable people who want to visit you in camp. Almost everyone is acceptable to the camp authorities so you needn't have any fears in that regard. For one-time visitors, passes will be issued by the Military Police at the Main Gate to persons who can offer suitable identification.

Permanent passes must be signed by the adjutant of your organization and the camp's provost marshal. Make application for all permanent passes through your first sergeant.

## **Honor Cards**

Honor cards permitting absence from camp from retreat until somewhere around midnight (it's later on Saturday nights) are issued to enlisted men with good records in units where tactical disposal permits. Usually these passes are kept in the orderly room.

You can travel to nearby towns on an honor card, but you must be back within the stated time—so don't get caught off base. The honor card is a rather permanent arrangement, but the use of it may be revoked as company punishment.

## **Passes**

Passes for as long as three days are obtainable under favorable circumstances. When you're given a pass you may travel any distance from camp which is not so far that you won't be able to return on time if your transportation arrangements should slip up. Once a 200 mile limitation was set, but the highly variable nature of transportation was taken into consideration and the limit was lifted so that the responsibility might be placed on the individual soldier.

Usually these passes are granted at a time when they

will not interfere with important duties. Week-end passes come under this same heading. A soldier absent from camp on the authority of one of these passes is required to conform to the military curfew hours.

## Housing

Your friends and relatives are welcome to visit the camp. Wherever possible, arrangements will be made which will enable married men to live off the post with their wives. First, however, you should be certain they are going to have a place to sleep when they get here. The USO clubs in Alexandria will help you if possible.



So will the Traveler's Aid Society. Guest House facilities in camp are limited. A guest may stay only three days at a time and husbands are not permitted to visit wives in their rooms.

Other towns where you might look for rooms are (see small map) Forest Hill, Glenmora, LeCompte, Oakdale, Woodworth (hamlet five miles north of camp), Cheneyville (route 71 south of LeCompte), and Bunkie. There are other places too, but the story is pretty much the same everywhere: "full up."

## Camp Shows

Frequent USO shows add life and a little sparkle to camp routine. The girls (there's always girls) are usually

pretty shapely. As a matter-of-fact, they're usually more shapely than pretty. Soldier audiences seem to prefer things that way.

In addition to the chorus, each show usually boasts an orchestra, a master of ceremonies or comedian and several novelty acts from vaudeville's upper strata.

Visits from movie stars are not unknown here, but such events are rare.

The shows customarily open in the Amphitheatre or Sports Arena (see map) and then move out into the EUTC for the benefit of footweary Engineers. No charge is ever made for a USO show.



## Barbers

Almost every Camp Exchange has its own barber shop. A haircut costs 35 cents. The barbers are civilians and work on a commission basis. When they ask if you'd like something on your hair they mean "Do you want a tonic?" The tonic may cost you more than the hair cut, so if you don't really want to spend the extra dough say so. Don't gripe after it's too late. Barbers in some areas are required to cut everybody's hair down to two or three inches. That is the standard GI length and considered just the thing for inspection.

## Hospital Visitors

Those who wish to visit patients at the Station Hospital (see map) may do so between the hours of 2:00

p. m. and 4:00 p. m. and between 6:00 p. m. and 8:00 p. m., if the patient is not in a restricted ward. While passes are not required during these hours they are at all other times. Under unusual and emergency conditions arrangements to visit hospital patients at other hours, or to visit in certain of the restricted wards, may be made with the hospital adjutant. Limited housing facilities for persons visiting patients who are seriously ill are provided in the main Red Cross building (see map). Further information may be found under "Red Cross Hospital Facilities."

## Automobiles

Automobiles and other non-government vehicles which are to be used permanently or semi-permanently in camp must be insured and provided with a camp license tag. The license costs fifteen cents and may be obtained in the office of the camp's provost marshal in building 501, adjacent to camp headquarters building (see map). The insurance protection must first be purchased from some reputable company. Requests for rationed gasoline are made in the Camp Purchasing & Contracting Office (see map).



## Cameras

Non-official cameras brought into camp must be registered. Report them to your Company or Battery Commander.

## **The Hospital Facilities of the Red Cross**

For patients at the Station Hospital a special Red Cross staff is maintained. Free movies are shown two nights each week. A piano, table tennis, craft work and games help recuperating patients pass the long hours.

Patients who are worried about their families or families who are worried about patients, may request and obtain welfare reports.

If you are seriously ill and it is possible for your family to come, rooms are available, without charge, at the main Red Cross building near the Station Hospital. Every effort, in such cases, is made for the family to be close by.

Patients requiring transportation funds for an emergency or convalescent furlough may request a loan from the hospital Red Cross staff. For those who need them, the Red Cross staff at the Station Hospital has available such comfort items as toilet articles, cigarettes, stationery and shaving equipment.

A library with really new books and all of the latest magazines is also available through the day and early evening.

Needs of those patients who are unable to come to the Red Cross house in the hospital are attended by a visiting staff worker. Requests for this service are made through the ward nurse.

## **Life Insurance**

About the only all-risk life insurance policy you can buy now is the National Service Life Insurance policy offered to all members of the armed forces by the United



States government. It's term insurance and runs out when you stop paying for it. You can keep it up for five years after it takes effect, or you can convert it, after carrying it for one year, to one of these three choices:

1. Ordinary pay life
2. A thirty year paid up policy
3. A twenty year paid up policy

The largest amount you may carry is \$10,000 and the Army encourages every soldier to protect his relatives to that extent. The only relatives who may be designated as beneficiaries are mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. The cost is lower than that of similar coverage offered elsewhere and no physical examination is necessary if application is made within 120 days of induction. All men should take their full \$10,000 worth of insurance. It is your best bet for the least that you will ever get.

## War Bonds

Most soldiers buy War Bonds on the payroll reservation plan. Your application for such a reservation may be arranged by the War Bond officer of your unit. Cash sales of War Bonds are made (see map) at the Camp Claiborne bank, the main Post Office on South First street, the Camp Finance Office, and at the EUTC branch Post Office near the Engineer Unit Training Center headquarters.

## Notary Public

A notary public is available at the Camp Claiborne facility of the Rapides Bank and Trust company from 2 until 5 on week-day afternoons. The bank is located at the corner of South R street and South Third street (see map). A small fee is charged for the service.

## Banking

You may do your banking right here on the post. The Camp Claiborne facility of the Rapides Bank and Trust company of Alexandria, La., is located at the corner of South Third street and South R street, opposite the Finance office (see map). The bank is open from 2 until 5 every afternoon except Saturday and Sunday. Enlisted men who desire to cash checks, unless they have an account with the Rapides Bank, must have them endorsed by an officer whose signature is on file at the bank.



In addition to regular banking services, the branch also sells War Bonds and offers notary service.

## Day Rooms

In those parts of camp which were built in peace-time day rooms have been provided for each unit of company strength (approximately 200 men). These buildings are

intended for the comfort and relaxation of the men quartered in the adjacent area. Some have been highly decorated and well furnished and many have facilities for pool and table tennis, willed by preceding units. Other popular day room activities are letter writing and card playing.

## Sick Call

Sick call is for what an "Old Army" sergeant would call "the sick, lame and lazy." Sick call isn't meant for the lazy ones, but most outfits have one or more "goldbricks." It isn't long until everybody in the unit is wise to these "birds." Starting the day his first sergeant catches on, a goldbrick becomes a "yardbird."



Sick call is customarily held just after breakfast. Any man who wants to see a doctor can go into the orderly room first thing in the morning and have his name placed on the sick book. Later all of the sick go to the dispensary for diagnosis and treatment. If the medical officer wants a specialist to investigate your complaint he will send you to one of the clinics at the Station Hospital. All men who are too sick to be returned to the company will be transferred to a ward at the Station Hospital. Men who take sick during the day may go on sick call for immediate treatment by reporting to the orderly room. In emergency cases an ambulance will be called and the formality of the sick book will be attended to later.

Men who do not go on sick call when the first symp-

toms appear, and permit the complaint to progress until it becomes difficult to treat, are subject to discipline. Once you get on the sick list you must return daily for sick call until the Medical Officer returns you to duty.

## Camp Newspaper

The *Camp Claiborne News*, an eight-page tabloid weekly, is distributed free throughout the camp. It is intended to inform and entertain the enlisted men. The *News* was the first camp newspaper to offer an eight-page full-color comic section to its readers. Expenses of the publication are met from enlisted men's recreation funds. These funds accrue from movie profits and the like. The *News'* creed is, "The Private Is The Most Important Man In The Army." The slogan was taken from a statement made by Major General Bill Lee who commanded the 101st Airborne division here in 1942.

## Dances

Open house dances are held somewhere in camp at least once a week, usually in one of the service clubs. The big problem in planning a dance is girls. While the young ladies of nearby towns have been most obliging in this respect, there are too few of them. Mostly they come from Glenmora, Oakdale, Oberlin, Ville Platte, Kinder, Eunice, Opelousas and even distant Lafayette.

Some of the smaller organizations



plan their own dances and hold them in unit recreation buildings. Such events are initiated by the unit special service officer who is aided by the camp special service section.

## **Boom Town**

Boom Town is the camp's midway. It is located just outside of the south gate on what is sometimes referred to as "Jackass Hill." It is regulated by a committee of citizens headed by the Mayor of Forest Hill and in cooperation with military authorities. No hard liquor is sold there but beer is available. "Off the Reservation" recreation may be found within walking distance of your barracks. Games, amusements, and other types of entertainment are available along with souvenir shops.



## **Railway Express**

You'll find a branch of the Railway Express company at the Bringham railroad station (see map). A pick-up and delivery service is maintained in the camp. Packages, trunks and the like may be shipped in this manner. Items for air express are also accepted at the local agency. The expressman has a telephone direct to camp and it is recommended that you call him for full particulars. His telephone number is 205 and will cost only a nickel. A new

express office is now open just off South 4th street opposite the post bakery.

## Theatres

There are eight War Department theatres located throughout camp (see map) which have been built for your entertainment. Army theatres get first call on all of the pictures and, you, for less than half of what civilian theatres charge, can see all of the first rate movies first.

Operated by Army personnel, the theatres often show a little profit which is used for the recreation of enlisted men.

A ninth theatre is planned for summer operation only. This is the Open Air Theatre adjacent to Theatre Number Three. Do not confuse this theatre with the nearby Amphitheatre where movies are not shown.

Complete theatre programs are printed in each issue of the *Camp Claiborne News*. Other programs are distributed for display on bulletin boards.



## Inspections

Inspections are a part of the Army. They are conducted to check on cleanliness, healthy living conditions, condition of equipment, personal appearance, property accountability and non-GI practices. The traditional time for inspections is Saturday mornings, but some outfits

have them every day. A sudden inspection by a high ranking officer or a member of the Inspector General's department can happen to anyone anytime. That's the way the Army works—and you're a part of the Army now.

## **Absent Without Official Leave**

The guy who goes AWOL is a pain in the neck to everybody, including himself. Suppose a man goes AWOL for ten days and serves thirty days in the stockade as a result. He has delayed his discharge by forty days because he must serve all "bad time."

Furthermore, it's a heck of a way to treat the guys who are ducking Jap bullets in some unnamed jungle.

The death penalty may be prescribed for the soldier who is convicted of desertion in war time. The man who goes AWOL runs the risk of being tried as a deserter.

## **Radio Show**



A weekly radio show, sponsored by the camp public relations office, is built around the best talent the camp has to offer. Auditions are arranged by calling the public relations office at 122. Time and station for each program are announced in the *Camp Claiborne News*.

## **Red Cross and Army Emergency Relief**

To help you when in trouble the Red Cross has a permanent field office located in camp (see map). These are the things the Red Cross can do for you:

Render assistance in filing for pensions, compensation, insurance and allotments.

Furnish counsel regarding personal and family problems. If mail stops coming the Red Cross will contact your family, find out what is wrong and urge the folks to write. Where illness, death or serious distress arise at home the Red Cross, if requested, will have a trained social worker from the local Red Cross chapter call at your home and render needed assistance. If your presence is necessary at home, and upon approval of your commanding officer, the Red Cross will advance funds for transportation.

Army Emergency Relief, a lending agency of the Army, supplements activities of the Red Cross and in proper instances the Red Cross will refer cases to the Army Emergency Relief officer for handling.

## **Legal Assistance Officer**

At some time during our military career most all of us will have some legal problem which requires untangling. For this purpose the Army has directed that one officer in each camp be designated as "Legal Assistance Officer." Usually he is a man who was a lawyer in civilian life. You'll find his office in camp headquarters building (see

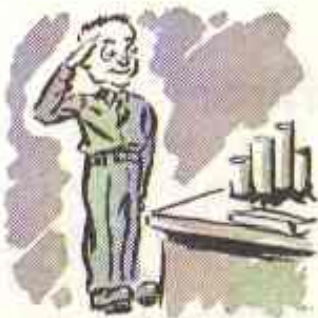
map) and he is on duty every day except Sunday from eight until five o'clock. Your company commander will probably let you off for an hour or two if you are in need of legal advice.

The legal assistance officer can not appear in court for you, nor can he help you if a violation or alleged violation of the Articles of War is involved. He can prepare legal documents, conduct negotiations, offer advice and arrange for counsel. He may also serve immediate members of your family. This is a service of the Army and no charge is made.

For those men who anticipate immediate overseas duty the legal assistance officer grants a priority on his time to enable him to help them with their problems before they depart.

## **Pay Day and Payroll**

Pay day is the last day of the month unless it is just before, or on, a weekend. You'll be paid unless you have been "red-lined". "Red-lined" means that you don't get paid from the regular payroll. That isn't good.



You can get red-lined for failing to sign the payroll, or for signing it incorrectly. The payroll comes out about the fifteenth of the month and it is very important to sign it at that time. If you are not paid with the rest of the men in your organization you can be paid from the supplementary payroll which means a wait of approximately ten days. You have to

sign that one ahead of time too. In case of emergency it is possible that you may be paid on a special voucher.

A deduction of \$1.50 a month is made for laundry and you'll want to authorize deductions for War Bonds and National Service Life Insurance.

## **Mail**

Each unit holds mail call twice each day and once on Sunday. Usually it's just after lunch and just before supper. You will find a box for outgoing mail near your orderly room.

Advise your correspondents that special delivery service is not available in Army camps.

## **Free Soldier's Mail**

Personal letters, ballots and post cards may be mailed free. Envelopes must be of a standard size. In the upper left-hand corner write your name, rank, full and correct military address. Write "Free" where you would ordinarily place the stamp. While everything else on the envelope can be typed or printed, your name, your address and the word "Free" must be in your own handwriting. Air-mail, packages, registered letters, etc., require full postage. If you want to send a letter special delivery prepare it as you would free mail, then affix a special delivery stamp without covering up the word "free."

## Voting

Voting by absentee ballot has been simplified for servicemen. Official postcards requesting ballots are to be had in your orderly room. Fill one



out, have a commissioned officer certify it and mail it, postage free, to the secretary of state of your home state or your county election board. Make certain that everything is legible. In return most states will send you a ballot, other states will send you another form to fill out in which you again

request a ballot. In either case it is best to mark the ballot or complete the form and mail it back at once. Complete instructions will accompany each ballot. Read them carefully. If things don't go smoothly consult the camp's legal assistance officer or your commanding officer. Every effort will be made to enable you to vote.

## Income Tax

Soldiers pay income tax, but not like everybody else. The exemption allowed to service men on their military pay is pretty generous and most soldiers pay no tax at all. You will receive ample notice when the time comes to file your returns, if your income has been high enough to require you to do so. The regulations are long, involved and require an expert to interpret them. Advice is available from the camp's legal assistance officer.

## Laundry

At a regular time each week your supply sergeant will accept laundry bundles from every man in the unit. You will have to make your Quartermaster laundry slip out carefully or you may lose your bundle. Get an old timer to show you how. Check your laundry when it comes back. The laundry is usually rushed and mistakes occur, resulting in the loss of clothing. One morning each week you will exchange your sheet and pillow case for clean ones. Comforters, where issued, and blankets will also be laundered regularly.



## Telegrams

The telegraph office is centrally located (see map). You may send telegrams from this office, or you may telephone them from any pay booth in camp. The telephone number of the telegraph office is 11. You will want to have the right change to the nearest nickel, in coins, if you are phoning your telegram.

Rates are the same as those charged elsewhere. Due to war-time restrictions telegrams offering greetings can not be accepted. Incoming telegrams are telephoned whenever possible because the actual telegram must be delivered through military channels and may be delayed for some time.

## Camp Gates

There are five camp gates (see map), all of which are guarded night and day by Military Police. It is dangerous to enter or leave the camp at any other place. Soldiers leaving camp and civilians entering camp are checked very closely. The administrative heads of Claiborne are proud of the men they have picked for the Military Police section. Most of these men have had their training in either the Infantry or the Corps of Engineers and their chief interest is in doing their jobs right. If you cooperate with them you'll find out that they're right guys.

## Stables

Claiborne maintains stables (see map) where some fine horses are kept. Some of these horses are the property of officers stationed here, and the others belong to the Army. Commissioned officers are permitted to ride the Army mounts, usually by appointment.



Anyone who likes horses is welcome to visit the stable, but you'd better get the sergeant in charge to take you around because the place is guarded and visitors who do not announce themselves are likely to be regarded with suspicion.

## **Ration Points for Furloughs and Separate Rationing**

In all cases where a man is authorized to eat away from his mess hall he may obtain ration points which will enable him or his representative to purchase rationed food on the same basis as civilians. This means that it is possible to obtain ration points for food while you are on furlough, or while you are authorized to ration separately from your unit.

Here is how you go about it. Several days before you want the rationing to take effect you make application through your commanding officer who sends your name, rank and Army serial number, together with the name and address of the person who will spend the points, and the inclusive dates to the point rationing office (see map). A ration currency certificate will be made up and you will be notified to call for it in person. Before you get the certificate you'll have to sign for it. Then, all you'll have to do is trade it in at the Office of Price Administration in your home town for some honest-to-goodness ration stamps which'll permit you to buy some honest-to-goodness food.

## **Armed Forces Institute**

Many men are going to leave the Army better educated than they were when they came in, thanks to the Armed Forces Institute. Teaching service men by mail may be a new idea, but correspondence courses are a proven success. More than 700 high school and college courses are

available to all enlisted men who have at least four months of active duty behind them. The Army pays the biggest share of the bill for these courses, charges you just enough to make sure that you're really interested.

The college courses carry full credits. The high school courses offer certificates upon completion of each course. You can take as long as you want on each course, and even continue it from overseas if necessary. Most courses do require that you submit at least one lesson a month. The college courses are in arrangement with more than 70 colleges and universities and the credits are granted directly by the school from which the course is taken.

There are several places where you can find out more about these opportunities. See your special service officer or one of the camp librarians. If you can't get all of the help you want from either of these sources you may write to The Armed Forces Institute, Madison, Wisconsin.

## **Dental Sick Call**

If it is a dentist you think you ought to see, report to the orderly room in the same manner as for sick call, but make sure that the first sergeant, or clerk, understands that it's dental sick call you want. See map for location of dental clinics.

## **Admission to Hospital**

Hospitalization in the Army usually isn't the desperate step that it is in civilian life. It's a part of what the Army

calls preventative medical practice, and the idea is to cure you before you get really sick. The doctors and nurses are the same people who took care of you and your neighbors in other days. The equipment and facilities the Army provides the Medical Corps are much more extensive and modern than what is available to most civilian doctors.



If you are ordered to report for admission to the Station Hospital, take your shaving equipment, letter-writing materials, tooth brush and dentrifice, money and valuables along with you. Pajamas, slippers, robe and towels are issued to you at the hospital. What money and valuables you don't want to keep with you may be left in the receiving ward safe.

## **Photographer - Optician - Watchmaker**

Operating in camp under a concession from the Camp Exchange are a portrait photographer, a dispensing optician and a watchmaker. All are located (see map) in one building which is just west of Service Club Number One. Charges at these concessions are moderate when compared with what is available on the outside of camp. The photographer is open from 1:00 p. m. until 9:00 p. m. every day except Sunday. The watchmaker-optician is open from 1:00 p. m. until 9:00 p. m. on Mondays and from 9:30 a. m. until 9:00 p. m. on every other week-day. On Saturdays he opens up at 9:30 a. m. and closes at 1:00 p. m. On Sundays he doesn't open at all.

## **Claiborne-Polk Military Railroad**

The first military railroad to be constructed in this country was built between Claiborne and Camp Polk by the 711th Railway Operating battalion and certain of the first troops in the EUTC. The fifty mile road was ceremoniously dedicated on July 11, 1942, with the driving of a golden spike at the half-way mark.



Since that time many units have cooperated in the operation and improvement of the road. Trains depart on a regular schedule from the GI Claiborne station (see map).

## **WAC Barracks**

At this writing WAC barracks (see map) have been constructed and waiting for occupants for some months. A prize rumor, and one to be heard somewhere in camp every day, is that the WACs are coming in. It is expected that when the WACs do come it'll be a day long to be remembered.

## **GI**

You'll hear the term "GI" used a lot. This is what it means: Almost everything in the Army is government

issued. The abbreviation for government issue is "GI". Now, when a soldier doesn't know what else to call an item he knows he can't go wrong by calling it "GI." Therefore, if you call it "GI" you're safe.

A "GI" person is one who is strictly Army. He sticks right by the book and he can always quote you an Army regulation that says you can't do whatever it is you'd like to do.

## **Traffic Regulations**

Top speed limit in camp for all except emergency vehicles is 30 miles an hour on east-west streets. On streets that run north and south the limit is 25 miles an hour. It's 15 miles top in the warehouse area and 10 in the hospital area. All stop signs and traffic lights must be observed. Drivers of military vehicles are required to signal all turns and stops. Other drivers are expected to do the same. A Camp Claiborne license tag must be displayed. It may be procured in the provost marshal's office.

## **Guest Houses**

Three guest houses (see map) are maintained for the accommodation of those who come to visit enlisted men. Your guest stays in the guest house designated to serve the men in your area. These accommodations are operated in connection with Service Clubs One, Two and Three.

There is no charge for the use of



the room—but the bed costs fifty cents a night. There's a pretty strict rule that no guest can stay more than three consecutive nights. There is an even stricter rule that husbands can not visit their wives in guest house rooms. First priority on reservations goes to guests of hospitalized soldiers.

Reserve your rooms well ahead of time. It's a pretty tragic story when the guest arrives and there is no place for him or her to sleep. Soldiers are asked to advise prospective guests that there are no facilities in any of the guest houses for the accommodation of infants. Whenever possible babies-in-arms should be left at home.

## **Answering a Military Telephone**

There is just one way to answer a military telephone. Pick up the receiver promptly and give the name of the place where you are, your rank and your name—then it's the other fellow's turn.

## **Telephones**

The Long Distance telephone situation at Claiborne is bad—but no worse than it is at other camps. Here's why: with the north-south traffic multiplied many times by transplanted soldiers, the existing lines are heavily taxed. No new lines may be constructed because the necessary materials are more desperately needed elsewhere.

Things get really busy after seven o'clock when the rates take an appreciable drop. Only genuine emergency calls can get through in a hurry. The remainder of the

calls must wait their turn under a time filing system. Sundays are busy days too, due to the reduced rates in effect all day.

To help things along the telephone company maintains two attended telephone centers (see map). At each of these centers two operators remain on duty all day and most of the night to assist you in making your calls. They have the right change, and telephone directories from many distant cities are kept on file. These centers are located conveniently. One is at the corner of South Second street and South "R" street. The other is in the EUTC at West 14th and West "D" street. There are several booths available at each of these centers and many more (see map) are spread throughout the camp. Unless you are calling from an attended center you will need the exact change for your call.

## Religious Services

One of the four freedoms we're in this Army to fight for is "Freedom of Worship." That freedom is carefully guarded in the Army. Chapels are within easy reach of every training area in camp. In addition, most units have chaplains assigned to them. To the end that no one may be deprived of the right to worship, services are also held in the stockade and in the hospital.



Religious services and activities embracing all faiths are regularly scheduled. Jewish sol-

diers are given special consideration in the matter of passes during their annual holidays. At Christmas time a furlough is allowed for every man the trains can carry.

For men with serious problems there is nothing funny about the old Army line of "See the chaplain." Your chaplain is always ready to go to bat for the man who has a real problem.

## Service Clubs and Libraries

Claiborne has four service clubs (see map) which either incorporate, or are adjacent to, cafeterias and fountain rooms. Service clubs are the social centers of any camp. Each club has a hostess whose duty it is to plan a full program of entertainment.

Of course service clubs are always on the very proper side and rowdies are strictly not welcome. That doesn't mean that you can't have a good time there. The numerous open-house dances are the most popular of the entertainments. There is something doing almost every night.

Service Clubs Two and Four have been restricted to the use of troops stationed in adjacent areas. Clubs One and Three do not serve those soldiers to whom Clubs Two and Four are available.



The libraries are the only features of the service clubs which are permitted to serve officers. Service Clubs One, Two and Three have libraries. Number Four does not. Anybody who looks like a good bet to stay in camp

for a while may have a library card issued to him. Up to five books may be borrowed for a period of 13 days. No charge is made for this service.

The cafeterias were doing fine until food rationing and shortages came along. Now they can no longer serve all of the people they'd like to. Only visitors in camp and enlisted men may eat in the cafeterias. The food is always good and rather inexpensive, but sometimes the ration points run low and additional restrictive measures have to be utilized until things get back to normal. Every effort is made to feed soldiers who are accompanied by guests.

Two all-purpose recreation halls (see map) in the EUTC, suitable for stage productions and athletics, supplement the work of the service clubs and are also under the supervision of the camp special service officer.

## Promotions

This is probably the most promoted army in history. Almost anyone who can lift himself out of the very ordinary can get some kind of promotion. Each unit is authorized to have a fixed number of men in each grade and before the training is completed the ratings are almost always filled. Here are the various grades and base pays:

Private First Class . . . . .	\$54
Technician Fifth Grade . . . . .	66
Corporal . . . . .	66
Technician Fourth Grade . . . . .	78
Sergeant . . . . .	78
Technician Third Grade . . . . .	96
Staff Sergeant . . . . .	96

Technical Sergeant . . . . .	144
First Sergeant . . . . .	138
Master Sergeant . . . . .	138

The best way to get promoted is to give the right guy the idea that you are earning more money than you are making.

## Air-Lines

Alexandria is served by the Delta Airlines and one plane a day goes both north and south. The airline runs from New Orleans to Baton Rouge to Alexandria to Shreveport and Dallas. Connections with other lines are made at Dallas and New Orleans. Air travel is many times faster and much more comfortable than the railroads. It is three to four times as expensive and rather uncertain unless you are traveling under a priority. Men with emergency furloughs are given such priorities. Even if you have a reservation it may be cancelled at the last moment in order to make room for an essential traveler. Plane travel without a priority is a risky proposition for the soldier *returning* from a furlough.

## Taxicabs

1. *Always* pick a cab with a Camp Claiborne license.

2. Agree, *before* you get in the cab, upon the fare.

3. Do not pay more than the maximum fare set by the provost marshal.

4. Do not bid the price up.

5. Try to find others who will share the cab with you. This cuts down your expense, and alleviates the transportation problem.



## **Amphitheatre**

The Amphitheatre (see map) is the setting for many of the USO shows and similar events. It is not to be confused with the Outdoor Theatre which is a movie house. The Amphitheatre is the second of its type to be built in any Army camp and it is estimated that a crowd of 10,000 can be accommodated.

## **Bulletin Boards**

When it has been posted on your bulletin board you're supposed to know about it. Where you find a first sergeant you'll find a bulletin board. Good news and bad comes to you in this manner. The list for KP, the latest promotions, and all other announcements of an official or semi-official nature are displayed outside your orderly room. Make it a habit to check the bulletin board for something new at least twice a day. An eventual result of failing to do this is a gig from your commanding officer.

## **Citizenship**

Non-citizens in service will have every opportunity to become naturalized. The process has been streamlined for members of the armed services. To initiate action see your company commander.

## Swimming Pools



At the present writing three swimming pools (see map) are proposed. One is to be located in the divisional area, a second is intended for personnel who have been designated to use Service Clubs Two and Four. The third will be for the use of EUTC troops.

## Material for Publication

All material written by military personnel and all material concerning experiences or observations in Camp Claiborne, no matter by whom it was written, must be submitted to the camp Public Relations officer if it is intended for publication. "Letters to the Editor" are included in this category. Units contemplating mimeographed newspapers are required to consult the camp public relations officer who is located in camp headquarters building (see map).

## Sports Arena

The Sports Arena (see map) is a completely equipped athletic plant. Dozens of different sports may be played in the mammoth building. Among the favorites are boxing, basketball, wrestling, volley-ball, table tennis, badminton and just plain exercise. There are punching bags, barbells, gym horses, a rowing machine,



weights, ropes to climb and slick showers to cool off in after you've worked up a good sweat. Big problem, thus far, has been shoes. You'd better send for your gym shoes if your going to want to work out. Leather soled shoes aren't allowed on the floor and the danger of infection rules out stockinged or bare feet. The Sports Arena is open throughout the day and evening except on Sunday. The office of the camp athletic officer is located in the Sports Arena.

## **Buses**

There are two camp bus lines, three interurban bus lines and one interstate bus line serving this area.

The two intra-camp lines are operated by the Interurban Transportation company of Alexandria, and the Camp Exchange. They supplement each other rather than operate in competition and the fare on either is five cents. Their schedules change to fit varying needs and are posted throughout the camp. Both of them have terminals at the bus station near the Main Gate (see map). The interurban bus lines are as follows:

The blue or olive-drab buses will take you to Alexandria, a city of approximately 30,000 population 18 miles north of camp. The fare runs something over a half-dollar for the round trip and the buses leave from the bus station according to a schedule which is posted in conspicuous places throughout camp. Some Alexandria-bound buses have their terminal at Service Club Number Two. These buses only serve those soldiers who use Service Clubs Two and Four.

The giant buses painted olive drab belong to the War Department and are leased to the operators to ease transportation difficulties.

The orange buses travel twenty miles south to the little town of Oakdale (population about 5,000). The fare is about the same as for the trip to Alexandria and two small towns are passed on the route. At Forest Hill, the first stop, there is little more than a pool hall, drug store and barber shop. The rest of the town's commercial enterprises seem to be liquor stores or honkey-tonks.

Glenmora is a lot larger than Forest Hill, but still very small.

Oakdale is larger still and boasts a Servicemen's Center.

The Oakdale bus doesn't have a terminal at our bus station, nor does it follow the same route through camp on each trip. However, it enters and leaves the camp through the South Gate and that is the surest place to catch it.



Leaving the laundry area, the LeCompte buses travel along South Fourth street and pass through the South Gate. They are very old and they are the only public transportation between camp and the little town of LeCompte (about 2,000 population) ten miles east of camp. This bus also makes a stop in Forest Hill. LeCompte is on U. S. Route 71, highway to Baton Rouge and New Orleans. It is possible to catch the bus to those two cities at LeCompte.

The inter-state buses have their terminal in Alexandria's bus station. Buses to Lake Charles, Beaumont and Houston may be flagged, if they're not already full, outside of the Main Gate, or they may be boarded at the bus

station in Oakdale. Because of the uncertainty of seating it is recommended that you go to Alexandria to catch these buses. Soldiers get a special rate on round-trip tickets, paying only a half cent a mile for the return trip. Schedules are available at the Interurban bus station in Alexandria and the Service Club hostesses also try to keep up to date copies available.

## **Transfers**

It is the Army's idea to keep you where you've been put—unless you can give someone in authority the idea that you would have a greater military usefulness if you were placed elsewhere. All requests for transfers follow the same channels. See your first sergeant and then your company commander. If they do not have the necessary information they may get all of the dope by calling the camp's military personnel officer. Here are some of the opportunities open to qualified men:

## **Officer Candidate Schools**

The trend is toward a more and more careful selection of candidates. The courses have been extended and stiffened. Openings often exist in all branches of the service, but you'll stand more chance if you apply for your own branch. For complete information consult Army Regulation 625-5. Every soldier is encouraged to apply for OCS if he stands above the average on the Army General

Classification test. (Remember that four-hour test you sweated over at the induction center?) If your test score leaves you on the borderline you may ask for the opportunity to take it over again. Leadership is the big thing that is wanted in potential officers. In any case, you must complete your basic training before you are eligible.

## **Army Specialized Training Program**

Shortages and potential shortages in certain professional fields have caused the Army to institute a college training program. This is the deal: you come into the Army, go through your basic training and, if your application is accepted by a special board of officers, you are sent to college as a soldier-student. In college you will still be under military supervision and the pace will be stiff. There won't be any time for Joe College stuff, but you'll get time off like any other soldier. No commissions are promised, although the successful ASTP student is conceded to be heading in that direction. The Army pays the bills for your room, board, tuition, books and supplies as well as for your equipment and clothing. No other army offers a comparable opportunity.

## **West Point**



Once each year soldiers who are not more than 22 years old and who have an Army General Classification test score of 135 or better, if they can meet other extremely high standards, may apply for the opportunity to take a competitive examination which determines who shall fill the *Army's*

quota for West Point Cadets. A prep course is given to those who stand highest on the test and further eliminations are made before admittance to the United States Military Academy. Permanent commissions are awarded upon successful completion of the course.

## **Air Force Cadets**

Getting in on the ground floor of an air-minded world are thousands of young Americans who are training and fighting with the Army Air Forces. The destructive power of a soldier is multiplied many times when he is put in an airplane. For guys who want to give our enemies Hell and lots of it, the Army Air Forces offer unsurpassed opportunity. Pilots, navigators, bombardiers and observers are given commissions as flying officers. The Army Air Force has arranged with the Veterans of Foreign Wars to interview, examine, and supply full details to prospective cadets. The nearest post is the Johnson-Brown post No. 1736, 329 Fifteenth street, Alexandria, La. Interviews are held on Wednesday evenings at eight o'clock.

While in training the rank of cadet is held and the pay is \$75. Air Force officers do pretty well because they receive flying pay amounting to 50% of base pay while doing flight duty. Ages 17-26 are eligible.

Here are the steps, one by one:

1. Get an official application blank through your first

sergeant or your unit personnel officer. Have your commanding officer put his okay on it.

2. Secure three letters of recommendation from reliable persons.

3. Obtain your birth certificate or some other documentary proof of your birth.

4. Pass a mental, or "screening", test. No definite amount of education is necessary.

5. Mail all this data to the Aviation Cadet Board, Alexandria Air Base, Alexandria, La.

## **Warrant Officers**

Specialists in certain jobs may apply for appointment as warrant officers. Application is made in much the same manner as for Officer Candidate School except that, after you have passed the board of officers you take competitive oral and written examinations. Attendance at a training school is not necessary. Appointment as warrant officer does not necessarily mean a transfer from your own outfit, although it may. It's a fast jump to "Officers' Row", but you've got to know your stuff.

## **Monthly Allowances for Dependents**

Under the Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act of 1942 the United States government has arranged to help you provide for your dependents while you are in service—if you are an enlisted man below the first three grades.

Except in the case of a divorced former wife entitled to alimony, the soldier's contribution is either \$22 or \$27. The government's contribution is always larger than the soldier's.

Application for allowances may be made by the soldier who is required to go through official channels. That means that he begins with his first sergeant and his commanding officer. The allowances, in the case of certain dependents, may be compulsory as regards the soldier.

The amounts received by dependents vary greatly. The amount a wife without children gets is \$50. One child brings \$12 more. Each additional child adds ten dollars to the allowance.

The law is lengthy and involved. For complete and accurate information it is recommended that you read War Department booklet FA-1, or consult your personnel officer. The legal assistance officer in camp headquarters building (see map) is also available for advice.

Grades eligible for the allowance under this act are private, PFC, T-5, corporal, T-4 and sergeant.

## **Camp Exchange Restaurant**

Streamlined service is offered in the Camp Exchange restaurant, located in the same building (see map) as the bus station. "Off limits" to military personnel before 6 p. m., except on Sundays, the restaurant is utilized to help feed the camp's population of civilian workers.

However, the restaurant does manage to feed many soldiers between 6:00 p. m. and 7:00 p. m. Military men and women are served throughout the day on Sundays.



The cost of the meals is usually very low.

Regular hours for the restaurant on weekdays and Saturdays are as follows: 6:30 a. m.—8:30 a. m.; lunch, 11:00 a. m.—1:30 p. m.; supper, 5:00 p. m.—7:30 p. m. On Sundays the restaurant is open for breakfast from 7:30 a. m. until 9:00 a. m.; from 11:00 a. m. Sundays until 1:00 p. m. dinner is served; Sunday evenings the restaurant is open from 5:00 p. m. until 7:00 p. m.

## **Camp Exchange Clothing Stores**

Twelve of the camp exchanges sell clothing. Two of them, 9 and 30, serve officers only while exchanges (see map) 2, 6, 8, 16, 17, 21, 25, 26, 30 and 33 provide for the clothing needs of enlisted men.

## **Clothing Alterations**

The Army provides for alteration of issue articles of uniform necessary to get a fit. For other alterations of clothing and sewing of chevrons and insignia the camp exchange or "PX". Operating on a small profit margin, with (see map) Exchanges 2, 9 and 30.

## **Camp Exchanges**

The Army's version of a general store is the camp exchange. The exchanges (see map) are able to offer savings, particularly on such items as shaving needs, cigarettes, shoe polishes, candles, candies and ice cream. What profits do accrue are diverted to funds which provide for the recreation of enlisted men.

Many elements of the camp exchange system are treated separately in this book because of their diverse nature. Altogether there are 31 general stores, 31 barber shops, one service station, one beauty shop, one restaurant, 8 dry cleaning pick-up points, one optical dispensary, one watch repair shop, one photographic studio, a bus line (intra-camp), a refreshment stand and three clothing alteration shops.

Exchanges 9 and 30 serve officers only. They carry rather complete lines of officer clothing and jewelry.

## **Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act**

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940 was designed to permit you to give all of your attention to your military duties. It does not protect members of the armed forces who are acting in bad faith, but it does provide a procedure whereby a suspension of civil obligations may be procured for the duration of your military service.

The law is lengthy, involved and flexible. No attempt will be made to interpret the law in this booklet. However, the following booklet, obtainable from the Government Printing Office in Washington, D. C., reprints and

explains this and other laws affecting military men and women:

A Manual of Law  
for use by  
Advisory Boards for Registrants

Copies of this booklet are available at all Selective Service Boards and in the office of the camp's legal assistance officer (see map).

Advice concerning this and other acts pertaining to legal affairs of military personnel may be had free from the legal assistance officer mentioned above.

## **Camp Exchange Service Station**

Motorists in Army uniforms find a haven from federal gasoline taxes along South Fourth street (see map). That is where the Camp Exchange service station is located. Otherwise known as Exchange 13, this station offers all of the services you would expect in a similar station elsewhere. Such items as batteries, seat covers, etc., may be purchased at a distinct savings. Buyers are required to surrender the proper ration coupons when purchasing rationed items.

The station is open from noon until 8:00 p. m. every day of the week. An official tire inspector is on duty six days a week.

## Officer's Clubs

There are three officer's clubs located in Claiborne. The main officer's club is located (see map) between north First and South First streets.

Almost opposite EUTC headquarters (see map) is the EUTC officers' club.

The officers' country club is located near (see map) the West Gate.

Most regimental areas are provided with officers' recreation buildings.



## Post Offices

Two regular, civilian-operated post offices are maintained to attend to certain postal needs such as the sale of stamps, weighing, insuring and registering of items for mailing—and to sell War Bonds to those who prefer to buy for cash. Money orders may be purchased or cashed.

One post office (see map) is located in the camp headquarters area and the other is at West 13th and West "D" streets in the EUTC. A third post office is operated by the divisional Army postal officers—when there's a division in camp. The APO is located (see map) just north of division headquarters.

## Kennels and the K-9 Corps



Claiborne representatives of the K-9 Corps are quartered in specially built kennels on the south side of camp (see map). These dogs are of two types: some are guard dogs and others are what is known as attack dogs. Both varieties run to the vicious side.

Dog lovers who would like to see these marvelously trained dogs are cautioned to stay away from the kennels unless they are accompanied by an attendant.

## Engineer Unit Training Center

Unique as a military installation is the Engineer Unit Training Center which is located in western Claiborne. Established here in the Spring of 1942 as the Engineer Organization Center to train troops for duty under the Chief of the Corps of Engineers and the Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, the EUTC, as it's commonly referred to, has trained thousands of men for diverse duties overseas.

Some of the types of troops trained in the EUTC are forestry units, heavy, light and medium shop companies, zone of communications units, special and general service regiments, petroleum distribution units, aviation engineers, pontoon engineers and gas generating units.

## **Beauty Shop**

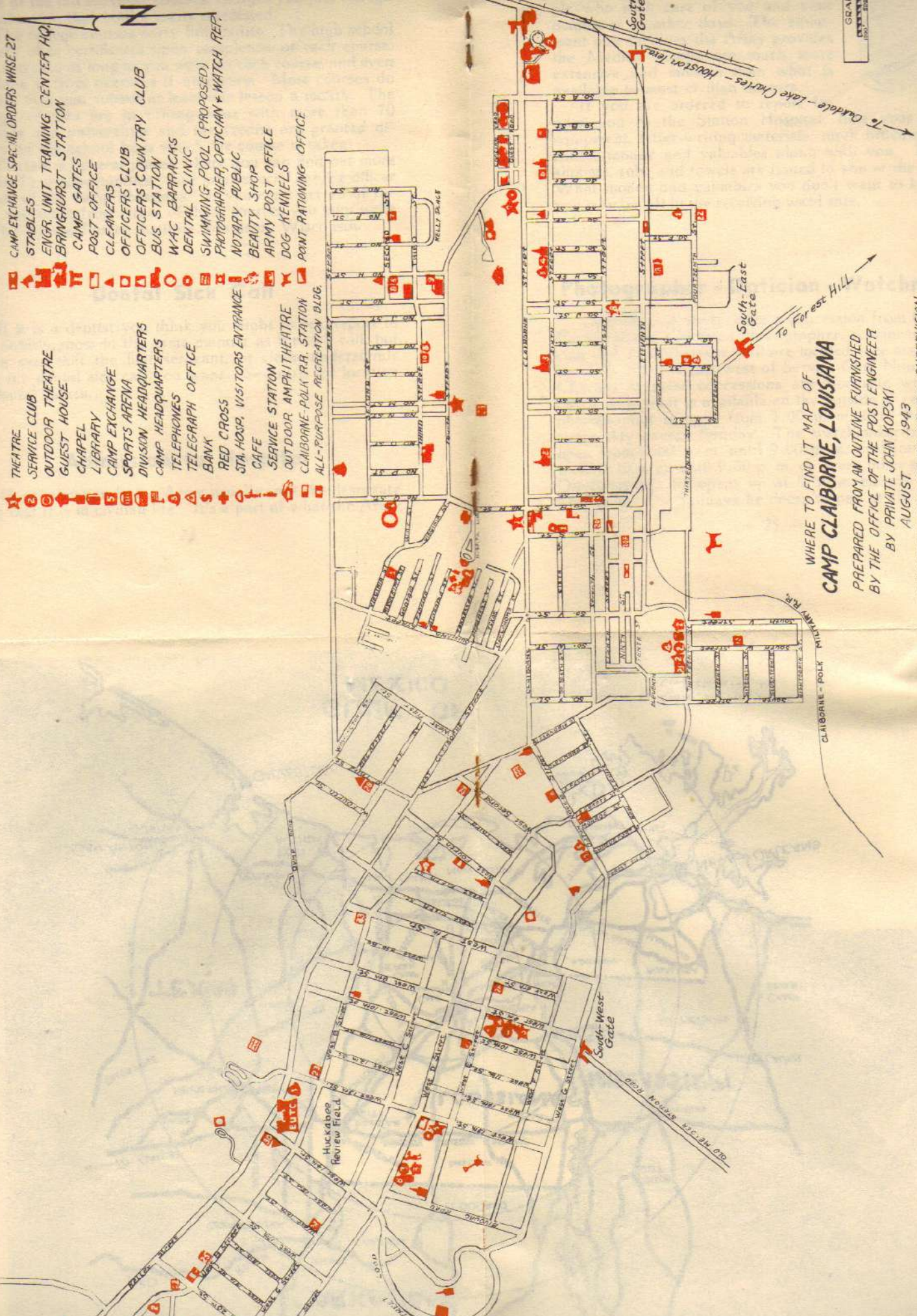
For the benefit of the camp's feminine contingent a beauty shop (see map) is operated in conjunction with Camp Exchange 12. The beauty shop is open from 10:15 a. m. until 6:00 p. m. every day except Sunday. Appointments are made by calling 555.

## **Prisoners of War**

Prisoner of War labor details are stationed temporarily at this camp doing work that they are allowed to do under the international laws of the Geneva Convention. These men although prisoners of war are soldiers and are due the respect as such. Do not intimidate them, laugh at them or put them up for ridicule. We will not always be at war.







- THEATRE
- SERVICE CLUB
- OUTDOOR THEATRE
- GUEST HOUSE
- CHAPEL
- LIBRARY
- CAMP EXCHANGE
- SPORTS ARENA
- DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
- CAMP HEADQUARTERS
- TELEPHONES
- TELEGRAPH OFFICE
- BANK
- RED CROSS
- STA. HOSP. VISITORS ENTRANCE
- CAFE
- SERVICE STATION
- OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATRE
- CLAIBORNE-POLK R.R. STATION
- ALL-PURPOSE RECREATION BLDG.

- CAMP EXCHANGE SPECIAL ORDERS WISE 27
- STABLES
- ENGR. UNIT TRAINING CENTER HQ.
- BRINGHURST STATION
- CAMP GATES
- POST-OFFICE
- CLEANERS
- OFFICERS' COUNTRY CLUB
- BUS STATION
- WAC BARRACKS
- DENTAL CLINIC
- SWIMMING POOL (PROPOSED)
- PHOTOGRAPHER, OPTICIAN & WATCH REP.
- NOTARY PUBLIC
- BEAUTY SHOP
- ARMY POST OFFICE
- DOG KENNELS
- PANT RATIONING OFFICE

WHERE TO FIND IT MAP OF  
**CAMP CLAIBORNE, LOUISIANA**

PREPARED FROM AN OUTLINE FURNISHED  
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BY PRIVATE JOHN KOPSKI  
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